

American Psychological Association 2009 Convention Presentation

Father Involvement and Gender Role Ideology of Young Hispanic Adults

LYNDON J. AGUIAR, New York University

Topics: 18.1 gender roles; 26.4 Hispanic Americans

The present study was based on analyses of data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, a multi-year national sample of young adults which began in 1979 (NLSY79). To explore the role that father involvement during adolescence has on gender role ideology of young adult Hispanic males and females, data from 406 Hispanic participants, a subset of the children of NLSY79 female respondents, were reviewed from the 1992 through 2002 biannual survey waves. Gender role ideology is the extent to which opinions and beliefs about family and work roles differ based on sex, and range along a continuum from traditional to egalitarian. Reciprocal-role theory suggests that fathers are instrumental in shaping the gender role ideology of their children. Multivariate analyses indicated that father involvement during adolescence contributed significantly to gender role ideology of young adult Hispanic males (N = 200), even after controlling for mother involvement and other contextual variables (participant's age, birth order, educational aspirations, maternal education and maternal employment). Increased positive father involvement contributed to more traditional gender role ideologies for young adult males. No significant contribution was found for father involvement on gender role ideology of young adult Hispanic females (N = 206) after controlling for mother involvement and other contextual variables. Increased maternal education and young adult educational aspirations were positively associated with more egalitarian gender role ideologies for both male and female Hispanics. Findings suggest that father involvement during adolescence has a significant role in the gender role ideology of young adult Hispanic males, while educational factors have a secondary, but also important role in the gender role ideology of both male and female Hispanics. Implications for counseling psychologists are discussed, with particular focus on Hispanic clients. Barriers to the increased positive involvement of fathers, such as maternal gate-keeping, are also explored..

FATHER INVOLVEMENT
AND GENDER ROLE IDEOLOGY
OF YOUNG HISPANIC ADULTS:
ANALYSIS USING NATIONAL
LONGITUDINAL SURVEY OF YOUTH
(NLSY)

Lyndon J. Aguiar, Ph.D.
New York University

“Fathers... influence the process of sex-typing in a myriad of ways – through their personalities, by serving as role models, and in their daily interactions with their children. Even more than mothers, they have a striking impact on the development of sex-typed behavior in their boys and girls” (Parke, 1996, p. 155).

Data and Rationale

- Data came from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, a multi-year national sample of young adults which began in 1979 (NLSY79)
- Data from 406 Hispanic participants, a subset of the children of NLSY79 female respondents, were reviewed from the 1992 through 2002 biannual survey waves
- Gender role ideology is the extent to which opinions and beliefs about family and work roles differ based on sex, and range along a continuum from traditional to egalitarian
- Reciprocal-role theory suggests that fathers are instrumental in shaping the gender role ideology of their children

Research Questions

Question 1

To what extent does positive involvement of Hispanic fathers during their daughters' adolescence contribute to Hispanic *female* young adult gender role ideology, after considering mother involvement and other contextual variables (age, birth order, educational aspirations, maternal education and employment)?

Question 2

To what extent does positive involvement of Hispanic fathers during their sons' adolescence contribute to Hispanic *male* young adult gender role ideology, after considering mother involvement and other contextual variables (age, birth order, educational aspirations, maternal education and employment)?

Question 3

To what extent are contextual variables such as participant's age, birth order, educational aspirations, and maternal education for each gender in this study related?

Question 4

To what extent is maternal employment during Hispanic male participants' adolescence related to their gender role ideology as young adults?

Question 5

To what extent is maternal employment during Hispanic female participants' adolescence related to their gender role ideology as young adults?

Results (summary)

- Multivariate analyses indicated that father involvement during adolescence contributed significantly to gender role ideology of young adult Hispanic males ($N = 200$), even after controlling for mother involvement and other contextual variables (participant's age, birth order, educational aspirations, maternal education and maternal employment)
- Increased positive father involvement contributed to more traditional gender role ideologies for young adult males
- No significant contribution was found for father involvement on gender role ideology of young adult Hispanic females ($N = 206$) after controlling for mother involvement and other contextual variables
- Increased maternal education and young adult educational aspirations were positively associated with more egalitarian gender role ideologies for both male and female Hispanics

Correlations - Males

	Mat Educ	Educ Aspir	Mat Employ	Birth Order	Age	Mother Inv	Father Inv	Gender Role
Mat Educ	1.0							
Educ Aspir	.12*	1.0						
Mat Employ	.11	-.02	1.0					
Birth Order	-.11	.00	-.03	1.0				
Age	-.11	.12*	.06	.06	1.0			
Mother Inv	.15*	.10	-.14*	-.04	.05	1.0		
Father Inv	.17**	.15*	-.07	.10	.03	.56**	1.0	
Gender Role	-.21**	-.12*	-.13*	.08	.01	.05	.13*	1.0

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$

Correlations - Females

	Mat Educ	Educ Aspir	Mat Employ	Birth Order	Age	Mother Inv	Father Inv	Gender Role
Mat Educ	1.0							
Educ Aspir	.23**	1.0						
Mat Employ	.23**	.19**	1.0					
Birth Order	-.30**	-.08	-.16*	1.0				
Age	-.05	-.05	.05	-.09	1.0			
Mother Inv	-.07	.11	.04	.05	-.06	1.0		
Father Inv	-.06	.07	.01	.10	-.05	.31**	1.0	
Gender Role	-.24**	-.25**	-.12*	.01	.03	-.10	-.06	1.0

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$

Standardized Regression Coefficients (β) - FeMales

Gender Role Ideology	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Birth order	-.07	-.07	-.07
Maternal Employment	-.05	-.05	-.05
Educational Aspirations	-.20***	-.19***	-.18**
Educational Level of Mother	-.21***	-.22***	-.22***
Age	.00	.00	-.00
Mother Involvement		-.08	-.07
Father Involvement			-.03
R^2 change	.10***	.01	.00
Adj. R^2	.08	.08	.08
FValue	4.63	1.53	.21
Sig.Fchange	.001***	.22	.65

$N = 206$ (females only)

* $p < .05$ ** $p = .01$ *** $p < .01$

Standardized Regression Coefficients (β) - Males

Gender Role Ideology	Step 1	Step2	Step3
Birth order	.06	.06	.04
Maternal Employment	-.11	-.10	-.10
Educational Aspirations	-.10	-.11	-.12
Educational Level of Mother	-.18*	-.19**	-.21***
Age	.01	.00	.00
Mother Involvement		.08	-.02
Father Involvement			.18*
R^2 change	.07*	.01	.02*
Adj. R^2	.04	.04	.06
FValue	2.81	1.19	4.63
Sig.Fchange	.02*	.28	.03*

N= 200 (males only)

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$

Discussion (summary)

- Findings suggest that father involvement during adolescence has a significant role in the gender role ideology of young adult Hispanic males, while educational factors have a secondary, but also important role in the gender role ideology of both male and female Hispanics
- Implications for counseling psychologists suggest that higher level of positive father involvement allows for the flexibility of both parents to do what is fulfilling and rewarding to them leading to increased relationship capital and reduction in mental health concerns
- More research is needed on barriers to the increased positive involvement of fathers in Hispanic families, such as maternal gate-keeping

ITEMS MEASURING FATHER AND MOTHER INVOLVEMENT IN

1996

1. How often does each of your parents talk over important decisions with you? †

	Mother	Father
Hardly Ever	1	1
Sometimes	2	2
Often	3	3

2. Please think about the time you spend with each of your parents. Do you think your parents spend enough time with you? †

	Mother	Father
Wish he/she spent more time with me	1	1
Spends too much time with me	2	2
Spends enough time with me	3	3

3. About how often does each parent miss the events or activities that are most important to you?

	Mother	Father
Misses events a lot	1	1
Sometimes misses events	2	2
Almost never misses events	3	3

4. How close do you feel to each of your parents? *

	Mother	Father
Not very close	0	0
Fairly close	1	1
Quite close	2	2
Extremely close	3	3

5. How well do you and each of your parents share ideas or talk to you about things that really matter? *

	Mother	Father
Not very well	0	0
Fairly well	1	1
Quite well	2	2
Extremely well	3	3

ITEMS MEASURING YOUNG ADULT GENDER ROLE IDEOLOGY IN 2002

- 1) A woman's place is in the home, not the office or shop. Do you...
 - 1 Strongly Disagree
 - 2 Disagree
 - 3 Agree
 - 4 Strongly Agree
- 2) A wife who carries out her full family responsibilities doesn't have time for outside employment. Do you...
 - 1 Strongly Disagree
 - 2 Disagree
 - 3 Agree
 - 4 Strongly Agree
- 3) Employment of wives leads to more juvenile delinquency. Do you...
 - 1 Strongly Disagree
 - 2 Disagree
 - 3 Agree
 - 4 Strongly Agree
- 4) It is much better for everyone concerned if the man is the achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and family. Do you...
 - 1 Strongly Disagree
 - 2 Disagree
 - 3 Agree
 - 4 Strongly Agree
- *5) Men should share the work around the house with women, such as doing dishes, cleaning and so forth. Do you...
 - 1 Strongly Agree
 - 2 Agree
 - 3 Disagree
 - 4 Strongly Disagree
- 6) Women are much happier if they stay at home and take care of their children. Do you...
 - 1 Strongly Disagree
 - 2 Disagree
 - 3 Agree
 - 4 Strongly Agree